

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the amendments above and the following comments. Claims 1, 2, 4-8, 10-15, and 17-36 were pending. By this Amendment, 1, 2, 6, and 11 have been amended. No new matter has been added. Accordingly, claims 1, 2, 4-8, 10-15, and 17-36 are pending.

Rejection of claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10-15, 17-18, 20-30, and 33-36 under 35 USC § 103(a) as being obviousness over Lucast et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,479,073) in view of Merkle (U.S. Patent No. 5,527,536) et al and Lucast et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,407,717) and further in view of Koketsu et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,547,223)

In response, applicants assert that to show obviousness the combined references must teach or suggest all the elements of the claimed invention. Applicants have amended independent claim 1, which now reads in part, "wherein the yarns have a water absorption of less than 30%." Support for this phrase is found on page 9 of the specification. Applicants believe that the combined references fail to teach or suggest wherein the yarns have a water absorption of less than 30%. Applicants, therefore, respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

Rejection of claim 2 under 35 USC § 103(a) as being obviousness over Lucast et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,479,073) in view of Merkle (U.S. Patent No. 5,527,536) et al and Lucast et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,407,717) and further in view of Wilderman et al (U.S. Patent No. 3,967,472)

In response, applicants have amended claim 2, which now reads in part, "wherein the yarns have a water absorption of less than 30%." Support for this phrase is found on page 9 of the specification. Applicants, believe that the combined references fail to teach or suggest wherein the yarns have a water absorption of less than 30%. Applicants, therefore, respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

Rejection of claim 6 under 35 USC § 103(a) as being obviousness over Lucast et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,479,073) in view of Merkle (U.S. Patent No. 5,527,536) et al and Lucast et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,407,717), and Koketsu (U.S. Patent No. 5,547,223), and further in view of Bodenschatz et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,074,965)

In response, applicants believe that the combined references do not teach all the elements of the claimed invention for reasons discussed above. Applicants, therefore, respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

Rejection of claim 19 under 35 USC § 103(a) as being obviousness over Lucast et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,479,073) in view of Merkle (U.S. Patent No. 5,527,536) et al and Lucast et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,407,717), and Koketsu (U.S. Patent No. 5,547,223), and further in view of Seabold et al (U.S. Patent No 4,315,047)

In response, applicants believe that the combined references do not teach all the elements of the claimed invention for reasons discussed above. Applicants, therefore, respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

Rejection of claims 31 and 32 under 35 USC § 103(a) as being obviousness over Lucast et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,479,073) in view of Merkle (U.S. Patent No. 5,527,536) et al and Lucast et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,407,717), and Koketsu (U.S. Patent No. 5,547,223), and further in view of Kantner et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,489,624)

In response, applicants believe that the combined references do not teach all the elements of the claimed invention for reasons discussed above. Applicants, therefore, respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

Rejection of claims 1, 2, 4-8, 10-15, and 17-36 under obviousness-type double patenting

In response, applicants request that the claims be held in abeyance, and at a later appropriate time, applicants will consider filing a terminal disclaimer.

CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing remarks it is believed that the claim is in condition for allowance. However, should any issue(s) of a minor nature remain, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned at telephone number (212) 808-0700 so that the issue(s) might be promptly resolved.

CONDITIONAL PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

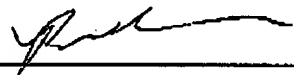
If entry and consideration of the amendments above requires an extension of time, Applicants respectfully request that this be considered a petition therefor. The Assistant Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee(s) due in this connection to Deposit Account No. 14-1263.

ADDITIONAL FEE

Please charge any insufficiency of fees, or credit any excess, to Deposit Account No. 14-1263.

Respectfully submitted,
NORRIS McLAUGHLIN & MARCUS, P.A.

By _____


Paul Lim
Attorney for Applicant(s)
Reg. No. 55,383
875 Third Avenue - 18th Floor
New York, New York 10022
Phone: (212) 808-0700
Fax: (212) 808-0844